

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a continuation of U.S. application Serial No. 09/538,788, filed on March 30, 2000, now abandoned, which claims priority from provisional application number 60/127,616, filed April 1, 1999.

Replace the heading at page 7, line 12, with the following amended heading:

Brief Description of the Drawings ~~Figures~~

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 12, with the following amended paragraph:

Figures 1A and 1B ~~1-a and 1-b~~ show the measurement of biological markers of lung injury after hyperoxia. Figure 1A ~~A~~ represents pleural effusion volume after hyperoxic exposure. Figure 1B ~~B~~ represents protein accumulation in bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) samples. Data presented are the mean values for six rats in each case.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 16, with the following amended paragraph:

Figures 2A-2F show ~~Figure 2 shows~~ the histological analysis of rat lung after hyperoxia. Formalin-fized sections of rat lungs were stained with hemotoxylin and eosin.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 10, with the following amended paragraph:

Figures 7A-7E show ~~Figure 7 shows~~ the results of experiments involving the effects of carbon monoxide on LPS-induced cytokine production in macrophages after pretreatment with CO (250 ppm).

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 12, with the following amended paragraph:

Figures 8A and 8B show ~~8a and 8b shows~~ the results of experiments which evidence that CO inhibits LPS-induced production of TNF- α and IL-10 after exposure to carbon monoxide. Six to eight mice in each treatment group.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 15, with the following amended paragraph:

Figures 9A-9C show ~~Figure 9 shows~~ the effects of CO on LPS-induced activation of MAP kinases. In lane 1 is untreated control; lane 2, LPS; lane 3, CO alone; lane 4, LPS and CO.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 17, with the following amended paragraph:

Figures 10A and 10B ~~Figure 10 a and b~~ show the effects of CO on LPS-induced serum production of TNF- α and IL-10 in Mkk3+ mice after exposure to CO. Six to eight mice were tested in each group.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 19, with the following amended paragraph:

Figures 11A-11C show ~~Figure 11 shows~~ the effect of CO on LPS-induced TNF- α by measuring total RNA from RAW 264.7 cells after treatment with LPS in the absence or presence of CO and analyzing for TNF- α mRNA expression by northern blot analysis.